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**CONFIDENTIAL****HUNGARIAN PUBLICATIONS**

Recently the Hungarian Government issued decree No. 4166/1949, according to which the Central Statistical Office, which is run by the Premier's Office, is to set up a "collection of confidential publications". At the same time, the Government ordered the setting up of an inter-ministerial committee which is to decide which publications, data, and information are to be considered as "confidential from the standpoint of national interest" and placed in a special collection in the Central Statistical Office.

The reason for these sudden measures was an article in the official party newspaper "Szabad Nep" ("Free People", Hungary's equivalent of "Pravda"), whose editor, Joseph Revai, is the Minister of Information and one of the most influential members of the "Moscow Group". Nine days before the above orders were issued by the Government, "Szabad Nep" discussed the recently published 1949 Yearbook of the Statistical Office in Budapest, and accused this office of an irresponsibility completely counter to Socialist thinking and Marxist spirit. The Yearbook, "Szabad Nep" stated ominously, was in no wise adequate to the requirements of a People's Democracy.

There were several reasons for this. First of all, the Yearbook had listed the number of prostitutes in Budapest--even giving their previous occupations--and "Szabad Nep" claimed that this placed the working women in an unfavorable light. Furthermore, the newspaper stated that the data in the Yearbook showed that the Government has dissolved a number of workers' organizations, and that the personnel of the police has increased both in relation to the population and in absolute figures. The article did not dare dispute the correctness of the statistical data, but merely criticized the fact that they were published. The reviewer reserved his most violent attacks for the fact that most of the persons arrested during the past year were listed as workers and laborers, and that the Yearbook gives a tabulation of "corpses found and persons listed as missing".

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The "Szabad Nep" reviewer declares: "Statistics was a class science in the service of the capitalists. Now, however, it must represent the interests of Socialism". This, of course, implies that a statistician who publishes true figures is an enemy of Socialism and a saboteur, a reactionary and an agent of the Western Imperialists.

Things like this will no longer happen in Hungary. The inter-ministerial committee which has recently been appointed will see to it that no data comes to light which is to be treated as "confidential from the standpoint of national interest".

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